



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Gulf Guardian Awards presented in New Orleans

BATON ROUGE - Five recipients were honored for their environmental efforts regarding the Gulf of Mexico with Gulf Guardian awards. The event marked the 20th anniversary of the Gulf of Mexico Program and took place on Oct. 29 at the Hilton Riverside hotel in New Orleans.

Receiving the awards were: Garland Robinette, WWL radio, for his 30-year dedication to restoring and protecting Louisiana's Gulf coastal wetlands; the Louisiana Office of the National Wildlife Federations for their Coastal Louisiana Habitat Restoration Initiative; the Audubon Nature Institute for their film "Hurricane on the Bayou;" the Louisiana Center for Planning Excellence for their Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan; and, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Farm Service Agency and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation for their formation of a partnership of Iowa agriculture for reducing nutrients in the Mississippi River.

DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett, along with EPA Regional Administrators Richard Greene and Jimmy Palmer, presented the awards.

"The recipients of these awards exemplify the steps that can be taken to protect the environment, and the Gulf in particular," said Harold Leggett, DEQ Secretary. "The recipients have embraced the Gulf and the practices needed to protect the Mississippi River, the coastal wetlands and the Gulf of Mexico."

The Gulf of Mexico Program Partnership developed the Gulf Guardian awards as a way to recognize and honor the businesses, community groups, individuals and agencies that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful and productive.

"Gulf Guardian award winners represent the very best in efforts to ensure the Gulf of Mexico region remains a place where people, industry and the environment can continue to thrive," said. Greene. "Their accomplishments are making a positive difference for everyone, and EPA is pleased to recognize their environmental leadership."

For more information on the Gulf Guardian Awards and the Gulf of Mexico program go to
<http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard.html>